

HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit

*Annual Report
October 1989 - September 1990*



*A Message From James T. Howell, M.D., M.P.H.
HRS District 9 Deputy District Administrator for Health
Acting Director, HRS/PBCPHU*

It is with pride that the HRS Palm Beach County Public Health Unit furnishes this Annual Report for October 1989 through September 1990. Instead of highlighting programmatic divisions, we have focused on selected areas of service. These are: Communicable Disease, HIV Disease, Child Health and Environmental Protection. Administration and selected other services are also reported.

Palm Beach County continues to grow rapidly in population and corresponding in service demands. Only with the outstanding support of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and Palm Beach County Health Care District, could we accomplish as much as we have. Cocaine addiction, the HIV epidemic and enhanced prenatal services have all added new challenges to our personal health services. Water, sewage, air pollution and sanitary standards for a wide variety of commercial operations (restaurants, schools, day care, adult congregate living facilities) challenge our environmental responsibilities.

Our next year will be a great challenge. We are presently in a recession. State and local funds will be limited. Medical indigency remains a difficult national, state and county problem. The effects of growing demands upon our natural resources remains.

We will need to evaluate our programs and streamline our administration to insure maximal usage of our limited financial and personnel resources.

Lastly, I would like to thank our dedicated employees and volunteers for their support and commitment to the principles and practices of public health for the betterment of our citizens and our community.

*A Message from Jean M. Malecki, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director, HRS/PBCPHU*

The tremendous health progress that began a century ago evolved largely from the application of preventive measures. The discovery that microorganisms caused the major diseases of the time and that application of knowledge gained from bacteriology and related sciences could control them provided the foundation for preventing epidemics.

We are currently in a period characterized as "the second public health revolution" where the potential exists for the prevention of major diseases, such as cardiovascular conditions, cancer and diabetes. Prevention is coming to the forefront once again with substantial basis for action.

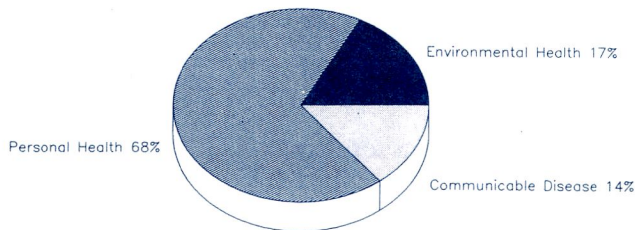
The health issues we faced in 1989-90 clearly demonstrate the complex, challenging and diverse problems that necessitated a strong, dedicated public health approach. The epidemics of measles and cocaine abuse; the ongoing challenges of childhood immunizations, infant mortality and teenage pregnancy; the prevention and promotion of health-related status through innovative programs in health education and school health; the development of community-oriented health care such as PATCH, the Haitian Project, Street Reach, People Reach, the Farmworkers Clinic; addressing the issues of accessible and acceptable care with Seacrest Obstetrical Services, Women's Health Care and the Kid's Corner have demanded superior personnel and health services intervention.

This has been a year of challenges and a year of great accomplishments.

Administration

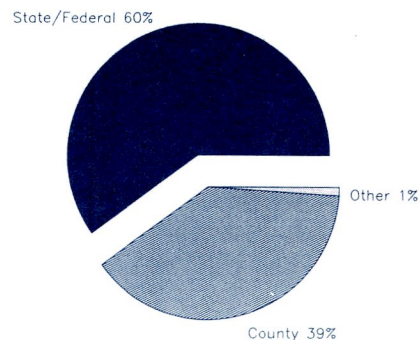
During the contract year 1989-90, the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit had 639.2 employees who reported 968,621 services to 146,606 clients or entities. The cost of these services was \$32,526,163, a cost of \$3.36 per service or \$221.86 per client or unit. Services provided range from immunizations of children against measles to inspections of restaurants to registering county births and deaths. Contracts were negotiated for diverse services including delivery of indigent pregnant women to specialized laboratory testing of air samples.

Major Expenditures
October 1989 – September 1990



HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit

Income
October 1989 – September 1990



HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit

The Palm Beach County Health Care District was established in November 1989 as an independent, countywide special tax district to provide for a trauma system and medical care for the indigent in Palm Beach County. With this formation, county funding for the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit was split between the Board of County Commissioners (for Environmental Health and Environmental Science and Engineering) and the Health Care District (medical services). The Health Care District, along with the county, releases the funding negotiated upon in monthly allotments to the health unit.

In October 1990, the Health Care District, along with local hospitals took responsibility for eligibility determination for hospital services, specialty medical services, pharmacy and home health services. The health unit does eligibility for Presumptively Eligible Pregnant Women, WIC, and the Primary Care Expansion Program. Where other services are needed, the clients are referred to the HCD staff located in, or close to, the health unit facilities.

Through its funding of the health unit, the Health Care District supports delivery of primary, maternal and child health services, disease prevention and health education, plus many other health services.

The HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit director is a permanent member of the board of the Health Care District. Health unit staff are involved in the standing committees: Needs Committee chaired by Dr. Howell, Medical Advisory Committee (Dr. Deana James), Eligibility Committee (Dr. Jean Malecki), Data Committee (John Hoehn), and Finance Committee (Jackie Chesney). Other staff have participated in many sub-committees.

Personnel

In 1989-90, personnel staff worked closely with the various divisions of the health unit in reassessing positions and reorganizing work units to more effectively meet their responsibilities in providing public health and primary care. At the close of 1990, the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit had the equivalent of 639.2 full-time employees and 82 OPS (other personnel services or part-time) positions.

Classification Activities

Establishments	32
Reclassifications	10
Add/Deletes	22
Deletes	2
Organizational Changes	1
Updates	62

Recruitment Activities

Original Appointments	142
Promotion Appointments	110
Reassignments Appointments	75
Demotion Appointments	5
Temporary Appointments	10
Emergency Appointments	6
Terminations	92

Payroll Activities

Overtime/Supplemental Payments	\$84,755
Number of Overtime/supplemental Payments	752
Payroll Actions Processed	5,175
Workers Compensation Claims	27
Retirements	10

Volunteer Services

The spirit of community service has been proven by the 400 dedicated volunteers who serve in our health centers. Their contribution of service and donations surpassed one half million dollars. These volunteers donate four to forty hours a week assisting in cost accounting, Medicaid, overseas immunizations, data processing, nutrition, vision and hearing, chest clinic, tuberculosis control, building maintenance, environmental areas, pediatrics and epidemiology or in any assignment matching their interest and skills. The emergency roster was called upon frequently in 1989-90. These volunteers conducted a patient satisfaction survey, assisted nurses with school immunizations and with the flu inoculation program.

The five center auxiliaries worked on special projects to meet non-budgeted needs of the indigent. With this mission, they provided a food pantry for clients, held children's holiday parties and provided a rent-free store called the Bargain Box where clothes from all centers are inventoried and shipped to the Salvation Army. The auxiliaries solicited \$185,000 worth of donations in food, toys and clothing for families.

The 12th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held, with 372 volunteers attending. Over 25 awards were presented including five- and ten-year pins and community awards.

General Services/Purchasing

In 1989-90, General Services/Purchasing obtained financing and land for the long-awaited Lake Worth/Lantana Health Center and South County Health Center in Delray Beach. Total cost of both projects is \$6.2 million. Ground breaking ceremonies for both centers were held June 25, 1990. The Lake Worth/Lantana Center is scheduled for completion in August 1991, followed by the South County Health Center in September 1991.

The Communication Section updated four antiquated telephone systems. All of the new systems allow for computer entry, thus eliminating the need for Bell Service technicians. Fax machines were purchased and installed in several buildings, which enhanced communications with other buildings.

Communicable Disease

Measles Outbreak

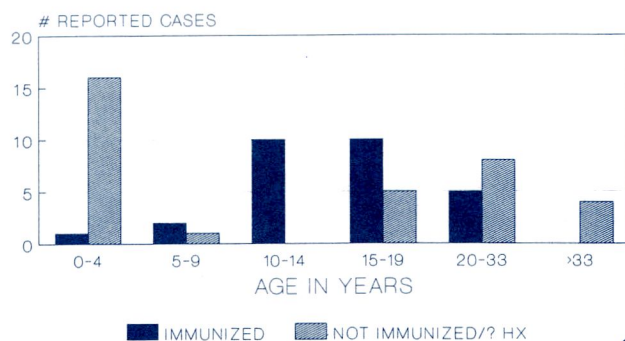
Palm Beach County experienced a major measles outbreak January through April, 1990. Seventy-three cases were reported during this time. The health unit conducted a massive immunization program, giving 20,500 vaccinations in 12 public schools to students,

school staff, parents and siblings. Employees worked extended hours, and the health unit spent about \$750,000 in supplies, vaccines and support services.

Of the 73 cases, two adults and a 16-month old child were hospitalized. No serious complications were reported.

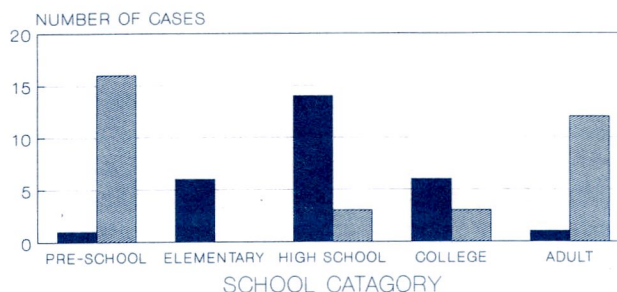
Two of the initial cases were exposed when one visited Tampa and the other West Virginia. One case was exposed in Palm Beach County by a visitor during the Christmas holidays.

MEASLES OUTBREAK JAN 1, TO MAY 11, 1990 AGE AND IMMUNIZATION STATUS



HRS/PBCPHU /DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

MEASLES OUTBREAK JAN 1, TO MAY 11, 1990 SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION OF CASES



Other Immunizations

The health unit has an ongoing immunization program which assesses the immunization status of Palm Beach County children and makes recommendations for improvement.

The major vaccines which are given to children are DT (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), oral polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), and Hib (Hemophilus Influenzae, type b).

The health unit has seen dramatic reductions in morbidity and mortality caused by these diseases.

In 1990, the health unit developed a computer database for the pharmacies and Epidemiology which has improved accountability of the vaccines by more accurately assessing vaccine inventory and use.

Summary of Immunizations HRS/PBCPHU

Vaccine	10/88-9/89	10/89-9/90
DTP	19,382	20,270
TOPV	18,498	18,950
MMR	6,266	7,305*
Hib	3,678	4,544
Total	47,824	51,096

*Does not include the immunizations given at schools during the measles outbreak.

Communicable Disease

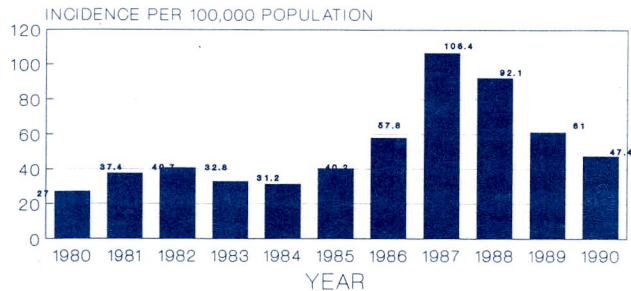
Sexually Transmitted Disease

The sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) most frequently seen in STD clinics are syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV (the virus that can cause AIDS), chancroid, chlamydia and herpes. In addition to treatment, counseling is provided to all clients to prevent the further spread of STD's.

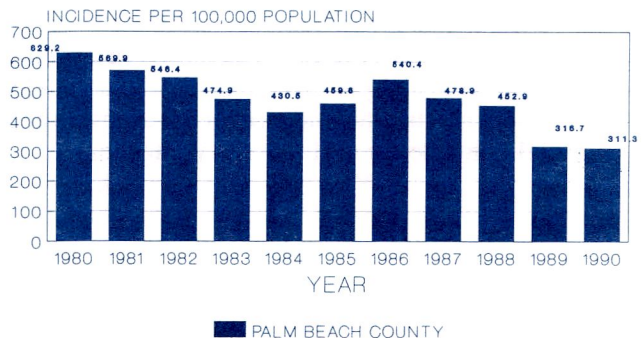
During January through October, 1990, 2,524 cases of gonorrhea were reported in Palm Beach County, a 5.3 percent increase from the same period in 1989. There were 121 cases of PPNG (a penicillin-resistant strain of gonorrhea) reported during this period, a 28 percent decrease from 1989. This may be the result of increased emphasis on PPNG control and treating all cases of gonorrhea with medications that are effective against PPNG.

During this same period, there were 775 cases of early (infectious) syphilis, a 14 percent decrease from 1989.

EARLY SYPHILIS RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION PALM BEACH COUNTY, 1980-90



GONORRHEA RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION PALM BEACH COUNTY, 1980-90



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Food Service Activities 1989-90

Census	3,926
Inspections	15,464
Enforcement Actions	195
Fines Levied	\$109,250
Voluntary Closures	15

Food Outlet Activities

Census	661
Inspections	2,252

Foodborne Outbreaks

Foodborne outbreaks, illnesses spread through food contamination, are also considered communicable disease. In 1990, the Division of Epidemiology investigated 29 foodborne outbreaks.

The Division of Environmental Health works to prevent food-related illness by regulating sanitary practices of public food service establishments. Environmental Health specialists make regular unannounced inspections of restaurants and other food outlets and processors.

In 1989-90, there were a reported 3,960 food service facilities in Palm Beach County. Only two percent of all inspections result in an administrative hearing for allowing unsanitary conditions.

Communicable Disease

Tuberculosis

While the number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the United States has declined in the last decade, incidence of the disease in Florida, and Palm Beach County, is on the rise.

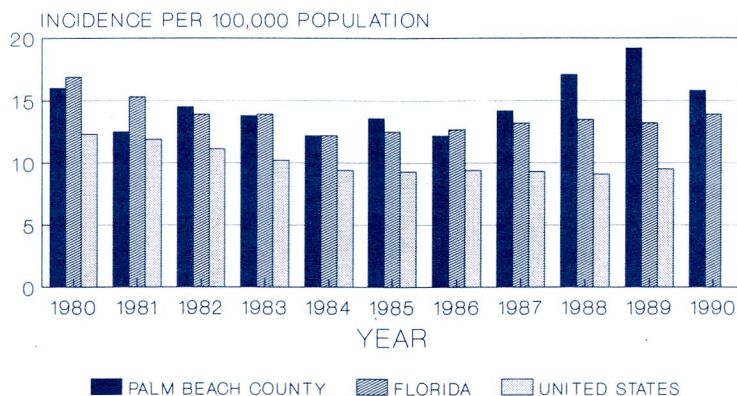
In Palm Beach County the number of TB cases has been increasing since 1986. There were 168 cases of TB reported in 1989, an 82 percent increase over the 92 cases in 1986. There were 110 cases of TB reported January through November 1990.

The reason for the increase in TB cases may be because of the increase in AIDS which impairs the body's immune system, making people more susceptible to disease. Similar increases in TB are occurring in many other parts of the United States where AIDS is prevalent. The State of Florida requires that all active cases of TB be counseled and tested for HIV (the virus that can cause AIDS).

The TB Control Program treats active cases of TB, traces contacts and works to prevent the spread of the disease. In addition to using antibiotics, clients receive continued surveillance and educational sessions. High-risk individuals and people in contact with active cases of TB are also administered prophylactic drugs to prevent tuberculosis.

From January 1989 to September 1990, 15 cases of pediatric TB were reported. This is related to the rise in adult cases, and may be related to HIV disease. There is currently an increased awareness of pediatric contacts of adult cases and close pediatric contacts who do not live in the same household as the case. There is active surveillance for TB exposure and infection in children known to be HIV-infected or at risk for HIV infection.

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE PALM BEACH CO., FL. AND U.S. 1980-1990



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Communicable Disease

Other Diseases

There are over 90 diseases/conditions which are reportable by Florida law. The most frequently reported diseases in Palm Beach County are campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, shigellosis, giardiasis, viral hepatitis and bacterial meningitis/invasive disease.

People in close contact with cases of meningitis and other invasive diseases are evaluated to determine the need for preventive drugs during "public health emergencies".

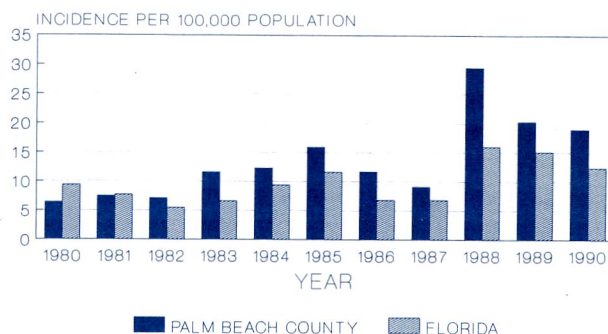
Cases and carriers of bacterial enteric diseases are evaluated, educated and monitored to prevent the spread of these diseases in high-risk situations such as day care centers, patient care facilities and food-handling services.

<u>Cases</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Campylobacteriosis	211	197
Salmonellosis	204	180
Shigellosis	175	156
Giardiasis	143	161
Hepatitis A	41	67
Hepatitis B	96	55

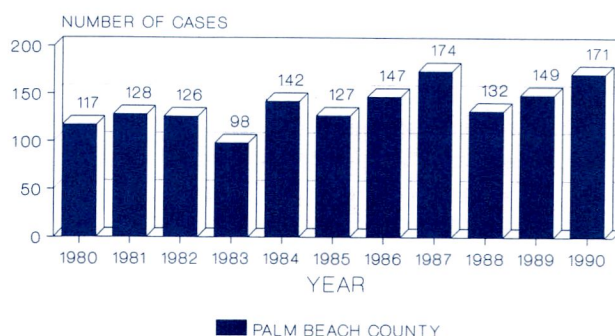
Meningitis/invasive disease due to :

Haemophilus influenzae	46	32
Neisseria meningitidis	10	10
Streptococcus pneumoniae	8	10
Group B Streptococcus	5	7

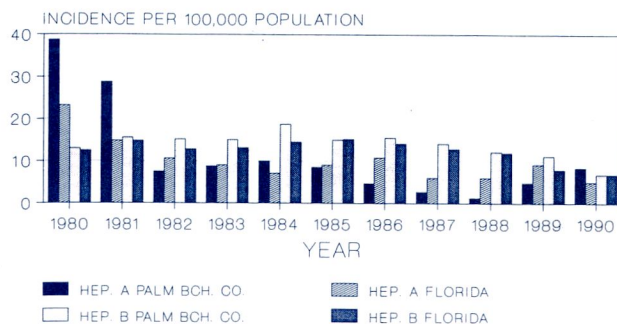
INCIDENCE OF SHIGELLOSIS PALM BEACH COUNTY AND FLORIDA 1980-1990



GIARDIASIS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1980-1990



HEPATITIS A AND B INCIDENCE PALM BEACH COUNTY AND FLORIDA 1980-1990



HRS/PBOPHU DIV. OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

HIV Disease

Surveillance

Currently, Florida has the third highest reported number of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases in the United States. Palm Beach County has the third highest number of AIDS cases in Florida.

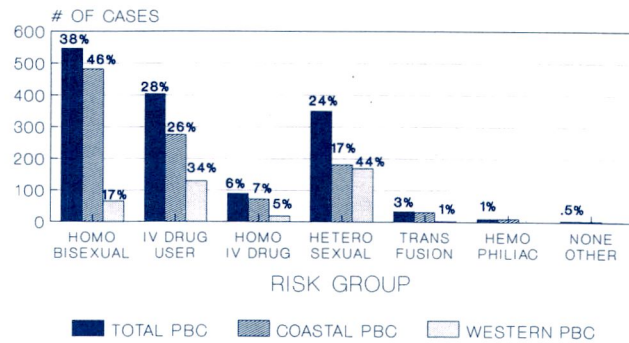
There were 305 cases of AIDS diagnosed in 1990 which brings the cumulative total to 1,424 cases. Of these, 1,371 were adult or adolescent cases and 53 cases less than 13 years of age. All pediatric cases were infected by mothers who have HIV (the virus that can cause AIDS).

Of the cumulative total of 1,424 cases reported since 1980 through September 1990, 64 percent have expired. The total cases included 1,118 males (79 percent) and 306 (21 percent) females, and 63 percent of the cases were age 20-40. There were 36 percent white, 69 percent black, and five percent Hispanic.

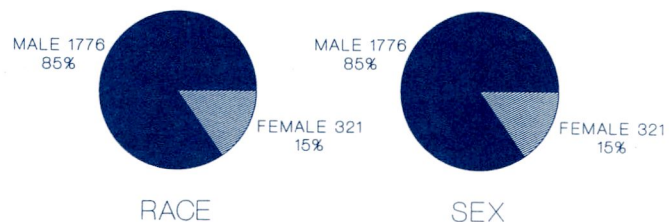
The modes of transmission are distributed as follows: 38 percent homosexual/bisexual males, 29 percent intravenous drug users, two percent transfusion associated, 13 percent heterosexual contact, and 11 percent persons born in countries where AIDS has a high prevalence rate. In 1985, 43 percent of AIDS cases were among homosexuals and 22 percent among IV-drug users. In 1989, 34 percent of the cases were among homosexuals and 31 percent among IV-drug users.

Because of these trends, the health unit's major focus will shift to mothers with HIV disease and their children.

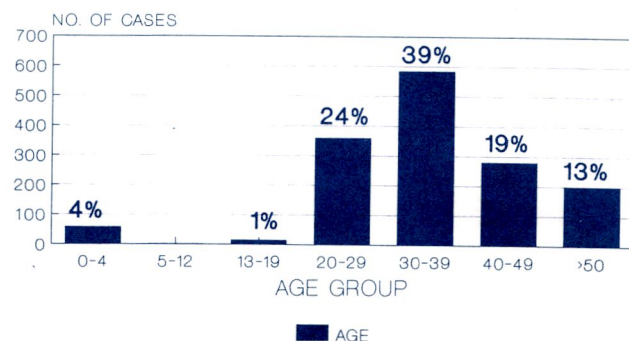
CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY RISK GROUP



CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY RACE / SEX



CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY AGE GROUP



HRS/PBCHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY MARCH 91

HIV Disease

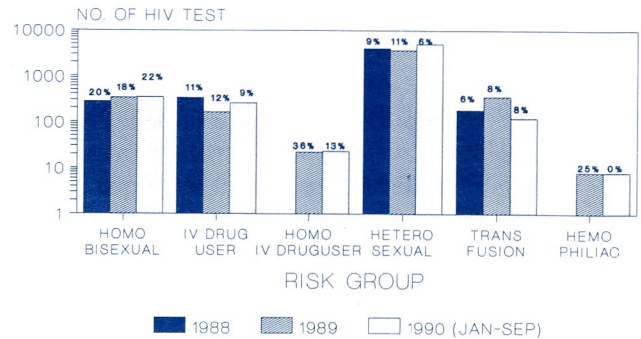
Testing

The HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit has an HIV Testing and Counseling Program designed to prevent the transmission of AIDS through risk assessment and preventive education.

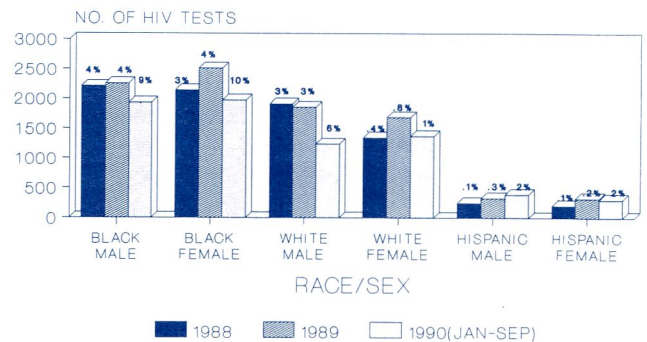
HIV testing and pre-test and post-test counseling are provided at anonymous sites, STD clinics, maternity, family planning, tuberculosis, pediatric and adult primary care clinics. Anyone may call and schedule an appointment for anonymous pre-test counseling and testing. Those being tested are identified by an anonymous number only.

Confidential testing is offered to all STD clinic patients. At all other clinics, an assessment for HIV disease is done. Names are held in the confidence of medical staff. Pre-test counseling and testing is done if a client is at high risk of HIV disease or by request.

HIV TESTING BY RISK GROUP PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1990



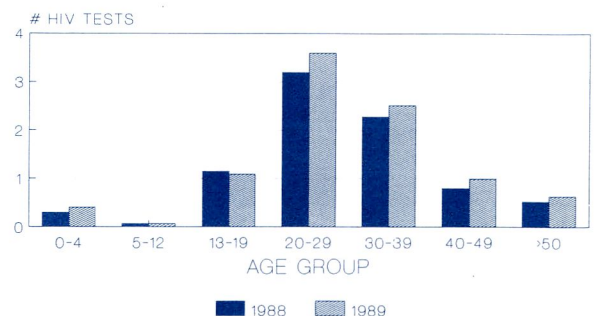
HIV TESTING BY RACE/SEX PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1990



HIV Testing January - September 1990

Clinic	Tested and Counseled	Positive	Percent
Anonymous Clinics	704	47	7%
STD	3,429	209	6%
Maternity	651	30	5%
Family Planning	186	7	4%
TB	309	12	4%

HIV TESTING BY AGE PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA 1988 - 1989



HRS/PBCHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

HIV Disease

Medical Care

Special medical care is provided to HIV-infected and AIDS patients in Palm Beach County at clinics in West Palm Beach, Delray and Belle Glade.

In 1989-90, these clinics provided a total of 4,133 medical management services to pediatric and adult patients.

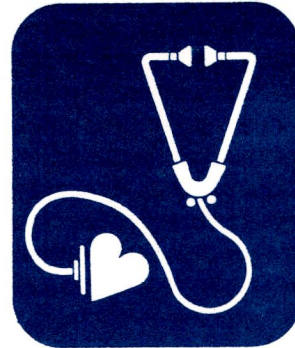
In each clinic, a case management team consisting of a physician, nurse, health services representative and/or social worker ensures that patients receive comprehensive care. Qualifying patients may receive aerosolized pentamidine, AZT, DDI and/or erythropoietin treatments.

Clinic staff work with other health unit programs, including STD and TB programs, and other agencies such as the HIV Prevention Center in Belle Glade and the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County.

In 1989-90, a state-of-the-art dental clinic for AIDS patients was opened. The dental facility provided 4,532 services during 875 patient visits. This facility serves as a model for other clinics across the nation. The health unit Dental Program made a presentation to the American Association of Public Health Dentists at their annual meeting concerning its activities.

Nutrition services to adult patients were expanded with additional staff. Nutritional assessment services were provided to pediatric clients seen in clinics and living in the residential shelter for children with AIDS.

The focus of medical care for AIDS and HIV disease in the coming year will be on contact tracing, early treatment of HIV-infected patients and the care of tuberculosis-infected HIV patients. The health unit will increase its efforts to provide medical care for the increasing number of pediatric cases.



HIV Disease

Preventive Education

The **Health Education/Risk Reduction Program (HE/RR)** is a Health Education Division program that provides preventive AIDS education to high-risk populations.

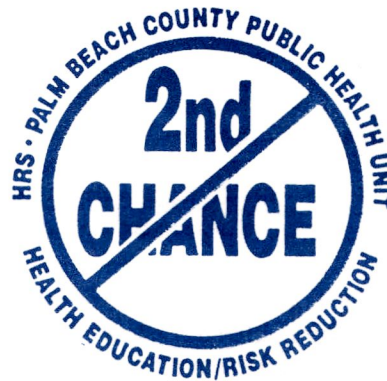
In 1989-90, health services representatives reached over 16,000 persons with messages on how to reduce their risk of exposure to HIV. HE/RR reached people in schools, churches, colleges, clinics, labor camps, jails, English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes, detention centers, health fairs, mental health facilities, rehabilitation programs, half-way houses, probation and parole programs and on the street. Some of the special activities included:

Inner Circle: a cooperative arrangement with The Learning Stage to present an HIV/AIDS education play followed by an educational session to 4,595 high school students and teachers in 24 performances during May and to 6,000 in September during 28 performances.

STREET BEACH
CO-OP
(COALITION OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS)

Street Reach: a coordinated effort with a wide variety of community agencies involved with HIV prevention to target high-risk neighborhoods with an educational "blitz". Twenty to thirty people cover a designated area with one-on-one or small group discussion and distribution of educational materials. This monthly effort supports inter-agency networking and provides a highly visible statement to the community.

Rap for Life: with multi-agency support, education programs are taken to low-income housing developments for teenage residents. Accompanying a series of classes, participants are encouraged to develop posters, rap songs and poems related to what they learn about HIV prevention. This culminates in a health fair/party where participants present their work and are awarded prizes along with music, refreshments and games.



LEARN to LIVE HEALTHY and HAPPY!



Child Health

Clinic Services

Services for children from birth until 21 years without access to private health care are seen in six health centers. This includes preventive health supervision and acute episodic care. The increased demand for these services has resulted in the development of community resources to provide episodic care to the ill child. Contracts with private sector providers are being planned to offer "walk-in" service for these children to permit refocus of health unit services on periodic physical exams, developmental screening, parent education and risk assessment.

Pediatric Services 1989-90

Number of Clients	19,329
Services	101,649

--- ***EPSDT Case Management*** ---

The goal of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Nurse Case Manager Program is to case manage EPSDT Medicaid clients to ensure utilization of services, to coordinate and facilitate the services of other providers and to promote preventive health care. In Palm Beach County, four groups have been targeted as priorities. They are: high-risk infants and children referred due to substance abuse, pregnant teens, multiple problem high-risk infants and children, and foster and shelter care infants and children.

The nurse case managers perform nursing assessments of the client's physical, social and environmental status and, through home visits, formulate care plans and coordinate health care services. They coordinate services with Children, Youth and Families (CYF), Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADM), Medicaid and other HRS and community agencies to facilitate the referral process and the movement of clients through the system.

Child Health

WIC

The WIC Program (Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children), reached 24,366 pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five in 1989-90, a record number served.

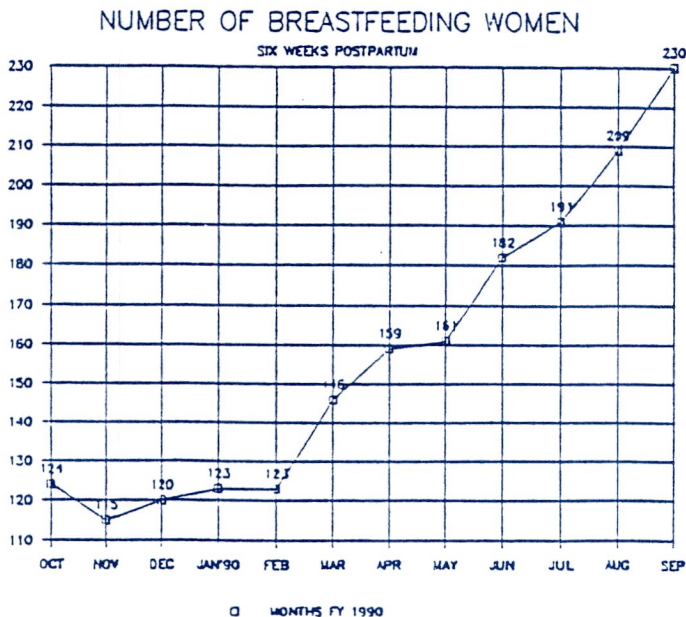
This public health unit has the third largest WIC Program in Florida, serving over 40% of those eligible and bringing into the county's economy over \$5 million per year in revenues paid to grocers for WIC food provided to clients. WIC Program caseload management limitations instituted by the state from April to mid-September of 1990 resulted in a devastating decrease of over 1,500 WIC clients. Increases in participant numbers are resuming but have not returned to pre-caseload management levels. Caseload restrictions in the WIC Program, however, had the effect of galvanizing wide community support among elected officials, media and advocacy groups in Palm Beach County, all of whom recognize the major health and economic benefits of the WIC Program to county residents.

WIC Program enrollment has been provided at two special migrant clinics with check issuance established at a school attended by many migrant children in South County and a Head Start Center for migrant children in Belle Glade. Migrant enrollment on WIC in the 1990 winter season reached 908, or 38% of eligible migrants, a record number to date, with outreach efforts among farmworkers continuing to increase the numbers.



Special
Supplemental
Food
Program
For Women,
Infants
& Children

Breastfeeding Program



The HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit received one of seven national breastfeeding promotion grants in 1989.

Of seven grant sites, only one other has seen two statistically significant changes in the increased number of women breastfeeding at hospital release and at three months postpartum.

The staff member who coordinated the grant attended a follow-up conference in Washington in March 1990, which brought together representatives of the grant sites to discuss sharing project results. This nutritionist serves as the local public health nutritionist representative on the Florida March of Dimes breastfeeding promotion task force.

Breastfeeding promotion has become an integrated part of prenatal nutrition counseling, general clinic educational programs and displays, with an increase of over 100 percent in the number of women breastfeeding at six weeks postpartum.

Child Health

Hearing Screening Pilot Program

A pilot program on hearing failure referrals was conducted by the Lake Worth School Health Nursing Team and the audiologist of the Palm Beach County School Board during the 1989-90 school year. These referrals were obtained from the routine Vision/Hearing Screening Program, grade level K-3, of 14 elementary schools.

The audiologist referred students failing their screening with known ear problems or obvious ear drainage directly to their physician. All other referrals were given to the public health nurse. These students were referred for further testing. Copies of all audiological evaluations were returned to the school nurse and follow up on any problems from these evaluations or lack of response from parents on the initial referrals was completed.

Summary

Total hearing failure referrals	339
Parents who responded to initial referrals (69%)	234
Parents who did not respond to initial referrals (31%)	105
Referred for audiological evaluations (60%)	204
Total audiological evaluations	193

Results

Evaluations normal (36%)	70
Evaluations normal with other problems (18%)	34
Referred for medical treatment 46% (about 64% of parents followed through with medical care)	89

Dental Health

The sodium fluoride mouthrinse/tablet program is one of the health unit's success stories. Since it began in 1978-79, with six pilot schools and 4,000 students participating, the program has shown steady growth. In 1985, the program expanded to include sodium fluoride tablets for students enrolled in ESE Centers.

The mouthrinse, or "swish", program had a very successful 1989-90 school year with all 68 elementary schools and 41,142 students participating. The health unit is particularly proud of two Glades area schools: Canal Point Elementary with 100 percent student participation and Gladeview Elementary with 97 percent student participation.

The dental health educator provided a dental health prevention program to 2,079 students grades K-9. Also, technical assistance and dental health materials were provided to 147 classroom teachers. Community health nurses assist school personnel every year in planning and organizing each participating school's program. Nurses or a dental health educator provide school staff with training as needed and deliver necessary supplies.

Family Day/Child Care Centers

Child care is a supply and demand industry and in Palm Beach County child care is definitely in demand. There are two types of child care arrangements available: child care facilities or centers, and family day care homes where no more than five children can be cared for in each home.

During the period July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990, 266 child care facilities and 222 family day care facilities were licensed. Palm Beach County is one of the few counties that license family day care.

The dual-discipline regulatory approach of Environmental Health and Nursing ensures that all factors involving health, safety and welfare of the children are evaluated. Food protection, vermin control, general house-keeping, ventilation, lighting, personal hygiene practices, playground equipment, immunization of the children, screening and training of employees and staff ratios are just a few of the items looked at during an inspection visit.

The trend for child care has been an increasing use of the family day care arrangement. These homes are inspected quarterly by the multidiscipline team, just as the child care facilities. Licensing of facilities is done annually and at this time a reassessment of the fire safety and current screening status of employees are done prior to the reissuing of a license.

Child Health

School Health Program

The 1989-90 school year presented challenges to health unit staff assigned to the School Health Services Program. The goal of the staff was to continue to provide quality health services to the 99,000 students enrolled in Palm Beach County public schools.

Despite the on-going staffing problems, the staff continued to provide basic services to maintain their commitment to school health and to look forward to improving services during the 1990-91 school year.

	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Elementary Schools	2,319	555,946
Middle Schools	752	178,395
Senior High Schools	732	129,725
ESE Centers	299	31,945
Vision/Hearing Technicians	731	199,545
Total	4,833	1,095,556

<u>Service</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Hypertension screening	1,126
Vision screening	41,358
Hearing screening	36,317
Pregnancy testing	176
Scoliosis screening	7,006
Record review	125,934
Nursing assessment/counseling	17,523
School personnel/nurse conference	23,373
ESE staffing	340
Case management	91
Environmental Health - facilities inspections	198
Food service inspections	352
Consultations	17
Quarterly meetings with food services supervisors	6

—School Health Services Pilot Project—

During the 1989-90 school year, the health unit began a pilot project from a grant from the Children's Services Council. A team of nurses and social workers expanded school health services by providing health screening, social intervention, daily coverage at school health rooms and case management. Services for the School Health Services Pilot Project were provided from June 25, 1989 through August 30, 1990 at Washington Elementary, John F. Kennedy Middle School and Palm Beach Lakes High School.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Number</u>		
Hypertension Screening		21	
Vision Screening		29	
Hearing Screening		29	
Pregnancy Testing		1	
Record Review		692	
Nursing Assessment/Counseling		373	
School Personnel/Nursing Conference		603	
<u>Visits to Schools:</u>			
	<u>Nurses</u>	<u>Health S.S.</u>	<u>Social Workers</u>
Elementary	46	52	36
Middle School	54	50	49
Senior High	104	46	50

Environmental Protection

Water Supply

The Water Supply Section was recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation for ensuring safe drinking water to the residents and visitors of Palm Beach County in 1989.

During 1989-90, over 140 small water systems were added to the inventory of public water systems under the Water Supply Section. Monitoring and sampling programs were initiated for these systems, protecting over 3,000 people who use them. Other new and existing systems will be inventoried in the next year.

Environmental Health specialists also regulate and inspect bottled water facilities and water vending machines. Currently, over 36,000 gallons of water can be bottled daily by the five bottling facilities in Palm Beach County. In 1989-90, state regulations governing bottled water were revised and now compare to federal drinking water standards. Statutory changes authorized permitting criteria, minimum standards and operating requirements for Palm Beach County's 10 suppliers of over 150 water vending machines.

Recreational Water

In 1989-90, the Recreational Water Section had 100 percent compliance in collecting annual permit fees for public swimming pools. The number of beach samples collected and analyzed was increased from two to three times a year.

Permits Review	86
Number of Pools	2,648
Inspections and Reinspections	7,558
Complaints Investigated	265
Notices of Violations	24

Wastewater Spill

When the City of West Palm Beach experienced a massive wastewater spill in September 1990, the HRS/Palm Beach County Health Unit worked with city workers, environmental regulation agencies, and private consultants to minimize the risks to public health.

In September 1990, sections of a city sewer pipe burst spilling millions of gallons of untreated sewage into a nearby canal. Over a four-day period, over 21 million gallons of wastewater were dumped into the Atlantic Ocean, Intercoastal Waterway and canals.

The health unit's Divisions of Environmental Science and Engineering and Environmental Health helped to implement a number of measures to minimize environmental impacts and public health risks. The primary action was to restrict public access to the affected waters. Beaches from Jupiter to the Boynton Inlet were closed until October 2. Swimming and water sports were prohibited in Lake Worth until October 10 and boat ramps along the Intercoastal Waterway were closed until clean-up actions were completed.

Besides issuing health advisories, health unit staff informed residents of property adjacent to the canal about potential health risks, and advised them not to use the canal for fishing, recreation or lawn-watering. Environmental Health staff tested 16 private wells and advised other nearby well owners to boil water. Staff worked with the city, environmental agencies and private consultant to implement a canal sampling and testing program to determine the extent of contamination.

While city workers chlorinated, dredged and aerated contaminated waters, health unit staff helped with permanent protection measures. A temporary chlorine contact zone was established to disinfect the canal and reduce levels of bacteria in the water that might represent a public health risk.

The health unit immunized 16 city workers who had direct contact with the untreated wastewater and canal to protect them against hepatitis.

During and after this emergency event, there were no reports of illness related to the spill.

Environmental Protection

Air Quality

In 1989-90, the Air Pollution Control Section of the Environmental Science and Engineering Division conducted public information programs on automobile emissions testing to prepare Palm Beach County residents for the upcoming Motor Vehicle Inspection Program. This program, which begins April, 1991, will enforce mandatory pollution emissions testing of all automobiles in six Florida counties. Over 70 percent of Florida's air pollution comes from car exhaust, and West Palm Beach was designated by the federal government as one of the six Florida metropolitan areas to begin mandatory testing.

In conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation and American Lung Association, the Air Pollution Control Section held 19 free automobile emission testing events and 46 mobile source public information presentations. This included presentations to various civic groups and private entities and testing over 800 vehicles.

Another move in reducing air pollution was the implementation of approval procedures for asbestos removal projects. A total of 54 projects approvals were issued in 1989-90.

Air Pollution Control Activities 1989-90

Open Burning Inspections/Approvals	287
Complaint Investigations	357
Air Pollution Stationary Source Inspections	106
STAGE I Gasoline Facility/Loading	64
Asbestos	
Inspections	252
Numbers of Approvals Issued	54
Percent Inspection/Number of Notifications	98%
Enforcement	
Notice of Violations Issued	45
Number of Cases before ECHB	23
Total Penalties Collected	\$9,000
Number of Consent Orders, F.S. 403	8
Total Penalties Collected/Consent Orders	\$35,725
 Air Permit Applications Reviewed	 53
 Free Automobile Emissions Testing Events	 19
Mobile Source Public Information Presentations	46

Environmental Protection

Solid and Hazardous Waste

Solid and Hazardous Waste Activities 1989-90

Solid Waste	
Complaint Investigations	633
Legal Action (NOV's)	97
Inspection of Facilities	210
Hazardous Waste	
Complaint Investigations	126
Legal Action	24
Inspection of Generators	606

During 1989-90, Environmental Science and Engineering enhanced efforts to control illegal dumping in Palm Beach County. The Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Section initiated the development of an inter-agency task force to work together to stop illegal dumping.

Because of improved surveillance and inter-agency co-operation during 1989-90, the use of civil and criminal law enforcement actions on illegal dumpers has intensified.

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Section regulates the handling and disposal of wastes through routine inspections of permitted disposal facilities, transfer stations, landfills, compost facilities. It also investigates complaints and provides onsite emergency assistance during chemical spills and public information regarding toxic and hazardous chemicals.

Businesses that generate small amounts of hazardous waste are licensed and routinely inspected. In 1989-90, a new computer data base was developed to improve tracking and monitoring of these businesses.

Hazard Control

The Hazard Control Section of Environmental Health investigates health hazards in work places and homes, monitors compressed breathing air stations, cold storage facilities and biohazardous waste generators. It tests for sources of radon (radioactive gas). It also regulates smoking policies in public places under the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act.

Hazard Control Activities 1989-90

Complaints & Investigations	178
Radon Information	180
Biohazardous Waste Information	84
Radon Tests	458
Clean Indoor Air Act	18

Environmental Protection

Plans and Permits

The Plan Review and Permit Section reviews permit applications and engineering plans for water supply systems, sewage disposal systems and public swimming pools. Permitting activity declined in 1990, reflecting a slow-down in the construction industry due to a decline in the economy.

Permits Reviewed in Conjunction with the Dept. of Environmental Regulation

<u>Project</u>	<u>Processed</u>	<u>% Difference from 1989</u>
Sewage Treatment Plants Over 0.5 MGD	3	-50%
Community Water Treatment Plants	24	-4%
Injection Wells	3	+50%
Well Site Locations Review for S. Fla. Water Mgt. Dist.	11	-35%
Industrial Waste	6	+50%

Plan Review and Permit Applications 1990

<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Number Processed</u>	<u>% Difference from 1989</u>
Water Distribution systems	416	-11%
Non-Community Public Water Supplies	17	-39%
Semi-Public Waster Supplies	30	+43%
Sewage Collection/ Transmission Systems	314	-11%
Sewage Treatment Plants Less Than 0.5 MGD	28	-10%
Septic Tank Systems	987	-49%
Septic Tank Variances	66	-45%
Septic Tank Subdivision Analysis	5	-37%
Public Swimming Pools	101	-7%
Private Wells (new 11/6/89)	1,775	
Septic Tank Operating Permits (new 1/90)	8	
Contruction Plans Reviewed for Water & Sewer Availability	3,053	-38%
Confirmation of Utilities Letters for county Zoning Performance Standards Certifications	187	-45%

Other Programs

Maternity

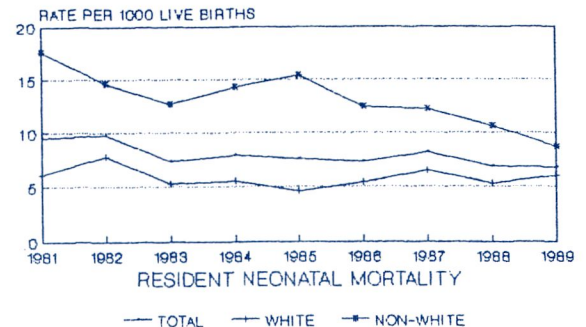
The infant mortality rate in Palm Beach County began to rise in 1986, from 10.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 13.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1987. Changes had to be made in the system of delivering maternal/child health services. The local health care system for the medically underserved was afflicted with major problems including overburdened clinics, a time-consuming, complex bureaucratic process to obtain care, insufficient maternity care providers and cultural/language barriers. The health unit worked with the medical society, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, local hospitals, obstetricians and pediatricians, community agencies, advocacy groups and consumers to expand access to obstetrical services.

Financial barriers were addressed through SO-BRA legislation which allowed self-declaration of eligibility and expanded Medicaid coverage for pregnant women. The Health Care District, created in 1989, expanded its eligibility criteria from 150 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines in October 1990. Any woman requesting prenatal services would immediately receive an eligibility determination, a nursing assessment, WIC services, laboratory services and an appointment for her first complete prenatal visit within two weeks. A case management system provided immediate and ongoing services. The number of patients receiving prenatal care rose from 2,245 in 1987 to 4,635 in 1990. To provide the same level of quality services for this increase, contracts were developed with local providers to provide off-site clinic services.

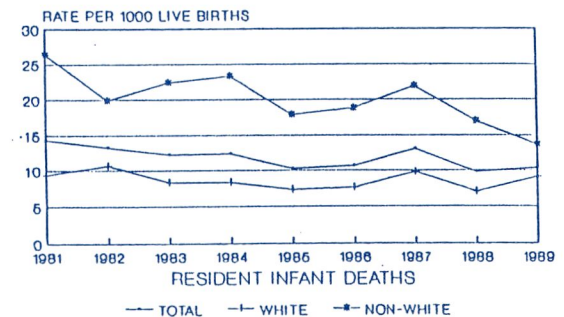
Programs to target specific high risk groups were created: Special Infant Services (SIS) program for the substance-abusing mother and her newborn, and the Follow Up Newborn (FUN) program for mothers who have syphilis, HIV disease, hepatitis B or tuberculosis infection/disease.

What has been the outcome of improving and expanding access? The number of women receiving prenatal services has doubled from 1987 to 1990. The number of women entering prenatal care in the first trimester has increased from nine percent in 1986 to 44 percent in 1990. The number of women receiving WIC increased from 10,241 in 1987 to 24,336 in 1990. The total infant mortality rate dropped from 13.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1987 to 10.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1989. The non-white infant mortality rate dropped from 12.2 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births in 1987 to 8.7 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births in 1989.

NEONATAL MORTALITY PALM BEACH COUNTY



INFANT MORTALITY PALM BEACH COUNTY



HRS/PBCPHU DIV OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Maternity Services 1989-90

Clients served 4,635

Services provided 66,341

	<u>1986-87</u>	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
IPO enrollment	2,245	4,485	4,006
Low birth weight babies	10.3%	9.3%	9.3%

Special Infant Services

In response to the increase in the number of infants born to substance abusing mothers, the Special Infant Services (SIS) program was created by the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit. The SIS staff counsel, monitor and arrange for drug-rehabilitation for pregnant women and case manage their newborns through 18 months of age. A study was performed on the SIS clients from Dec. 8, 1988 to Jan. 31, 1990 to obtain important demographic, socio-economic and clinical information of the pregnancy outcome. Clients received urine drug testing for cocaine, marijuana and opiates at the first clinic appointment and/or at delivery.

Out of 1,963 maternity clinic patients and 441 hospital walking-ins, 327 women met the criteria for the program. Of those, the average age was 26, 64 percent were single, 38 percent had 12 or more years of education. There was a co-occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases and 3.3 percent had a positive HIV test. Thirty-three percent of infants had low birth weight, and 40 percent went home with their mothers.

These results will help us target expanded health care services and outreach programs for this population.

SIS Activities 1989-90

Case Management	1,883
Nursing Assessments	1,112
Social Intervention	823

Family Planning

Special emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of clients successfully participating in family planning programs during 1990-91.

Activities 1989-90

Clients served	3,976
Services provided	18,807

Dental

A survey of dental needs and resources for care for selected populations of Palm Beach County was completed. A formal report on the findings is being prepared by the Dental Health Program Office in Tallahassee. To enhance quality of care, a patient satisfaction questionnaire was developed specifically for use in dental facilities. This instrument, along with dental record review procedures, is scheduled for implementation during 1991. Infection control and hazard communication program refresher courses were held for all clinical staff members.

Water fluoridation continues to be the dental disease prevention program of highest priority. Several communities are moving toward the adjustment of fluoride levels to the optimum concentration; it is anticipated these systems will implement the program in 1991. In the absence of community water fluoridation, a school-based sodium fluoride mouthrinse program was initiated in 1979. This program is now in its eleventh year, with 41,142 students participating. The number of students participating in the sodium fluoride mouthrinse program increased by 6,836 students, a 16 percent increase over the previous school year.

The dental sealant program provided 3,737 sealants in 1989-90. Combined with fluorides, sealants can reduce dental caries by over 90 percent. Emergency services increased by 16 percent over 1988-89. Other treatment categories remained stable, with restorative services (fillings) actually increasing by over six percent.

Dental Health Services Summary 1989-90

Patient Visits	17,117
Treatment Services	68,120
Prophylaxis and Scalings (Cleanings)	6,551
Fluoride Treatments	3,060
Dental Sealants	3,737
Oral Hygiene Sessions	6,797

Adult Medical

Primary care services for adults continue to be offered in five health centers, with referrals for specialized care or hospitalization.

Adult Medical Services 1989-90

clients served	10,127
Services provided	65,020

Health Education

During 1989-90, the Health Education Division implemented many special community health programs including:

Buckle Bear: a child passenger safety program targeted at licensed child care facilities by a task force of the health unit, Sheriff's office, Palm Beach County Traffic Safety, Palm Beach County Safety Council and the Safe Kids Coalition. Materials and inservice education were offered to 250 facilities. In seven pilot facilities pre and post surveys averaged 12.8 percent increased in proper use of approved child care restraints.

CPR: A total of 112 staff completed BLS certification taught by Health Education staff.

Drowning Prevention: Formation of a countywide Drowning Prevention Coalition to initiate educational and legislative programs directed toward the reduction of drowning in children was started. Members represent Emergency Medical Services, Palm Beach County Recreation Department, YMCA/YWCA, American Red Cross, Safe Kids Coalition, private swimming teachers and interested citizens.

Community Organization - Planned Approach to Community Health: The PATCH program in the Glades area sponsored a successful Health Career Day program for 200 juniors from six area high schools. The concept has been adopted by the Palm Beach County Health Care District and will be implemented county-wide in 1991. The PATCH program in the Lake Worth area sponsored a Haitian Cultural Exchange for over 100 health and social services agency staff to discuss communication and service delivery issues with leaders of the Haitian Community.

Health For Life

The Health for Life program is continually providing the community with health screenings and education to prevent or to control chronic diseases. Health for Life has targeted the working-age population and provided the program to 30 worksite/community groups, reaching a total of 2,053 persons.

Clinical Improvements: An average decrease in total serum cholesterol of 21mg/dl in participants with initial cholesterol levels 200mg/dl, an average decline in systolic blood pressure of 28 mmHg for participants with a systolic blood pressure of 140 mmHg and an average decline in diastolic blood pressure of 11 mmHg for participants with a diastolic blood pressure of 90 mmHg.

Behavioral Changes: decrease intake of fat, cholesterol, sodium, alcohol and smoking. An increase in exercise, label reading, fiber use and trimming meats.

The Health for Life program was awarded the **1990 Secretary's Award for an Outstanding Program in Community Health Promotion** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health for Life is a cooperative program of the Epidemiology, Health Education and Nutrition Divisions.



Public Health Residency Program

In 1956 the Palm Beach County Health Department received accreditation from the national accrediting body for medical residencies to conduct specialty training in preventive medicine/public health for physicians. This program helped to attract physicians of high caliber to the health department and to meet the need for these specialists. Over the past 34 years, over 50 physicians have successfully completed this program. In 1989-90, there are three physicians in training.

The program gives intensive training in administration, applied epidemiology, environmental sciences and engineering, environmental health and mental health. Physicians wishing to obtain board certification in public health are also required to obtain a master's degree in public health and to pass an examination covering areas of knowledge in this specialty.

The HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit is the only county public health agency in the United States directly accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education. A site visit in June, 1990 by a Council representative resulted in renewal of full accreditation. It is expected that applications will come from physicians over the world for this training, from which those considered to be best qualified will be selected.

—Primary Care Expansion Program—

The Primary Care Expansion Plan surpassed the 1989-90 objective for numbers of persons enrolled and served in its third year of operation. The target group for this program is medically indigent residents without another payment source. Financial eligibility is determined for one year through a self-reported application process. The enrolled person is eligible for all clinic services, pharmacy and one private provider referral visit usually on the same day they apply for the program.

PEP Enrollment	
Projected 1989-90	10,450
Actual (October 1990)	13,894
Annual Maximum	> 18,000

—Prepaid Health Plan—

Preventive and managed health care services continue to be the goal of the Prepaid Health Plan. PHP continued delivering services to approximately 5,000 clients.

Services provided to PHP enrollees during the fiscal year July 1989 through June 1990 totalled 33,569. Total enrollees served during that time period were 15,369.

Enrollees were referred for outside services including hospital inpatient, outpatient and emergency visits as needed. These referrals include specialty physician visits and diagnostic tests. The number of these services for the 1989-90 fiscal year was 31,683.

Nutrition

The nutrition education activities were expanded with use of remote controlled video equipment in each WIC waiting area. Videotaped nutrition education materials and puzzle worksheets in all applicable languages have been developed or purchased for use with clients.

Nutritionists teamed with nurses and health educators to provide the Health for Life health promotion/chronic disease prevention and control program. A Nutrition staff member presented data collected at one worksite at the 1990 Florida Dietetic Association meeting, and had an article summarizing this data published in the Journal of American Dietetic Association in October.

To expand the nutrition information for the community, Nutrition staff are working with the Cooperative Extension Office and the local public education and government television station to produce a regularly broadcast cooking show "On Your Table", featuring preparation of healthy food choices for all age groups.

Quality Assurance



Providing high-quality services to patients and clients has always been a primary consideration of the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit. This effort has been formalized over several years into a distinct Quality Assurance program. Program development has provided the format for comprehensive evaluation of the quality of services and the framework for a systematic means of identifying opportunities for improvement and problem resolution.

A long-term goal of the Quality Assurance Program is to achieve the required standards for accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Although standards review and the accreditation of hospitals is a well-established process, application of these efforts to ambulatory health care services is relatively new.

During 1989-90, most audit forms for record reviews were revised and updated. This concept was expanded to include separate chart reviews by physicians for the completeness and appropriateness of their care, i.e. Peer Review.

Another tool developed and implemented during 1990 was the quarterly patient satisfaction survey. Patients in the primary care clinic sites are surveyed for one week every three months on varying topics including access issues, waiting times and provider satisfaction. The results are analyzed to identify problems, promote resolutions and provide positive feedback to staff.

Information Resources Management

During 1989-90, the Division of Information Resources Management designed and installed a communication system which allows hospitals participating in the Palm Beach County Health Care District to dial in and connect to the HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit database.

For the first year since the CIS/HMC flow of data has been measured, the health unit completed an entire fiscal year with every month showing at least 99 percent compliance in submission of data to Tallahassee within 15 calendar days. This is attributed to the implementation of optical mark readers and the electronic transmission of CIS/HMC data to Tallahassee. The division implemented high-speed optical mark readers capable of entering immunization encounter forms at rates faster than 1,000 forms per hour. During 1989-90, the health unit administered in excess of 80,000 immunizations. Without the use of optical mark readers, it would have been impossible to keep up with the data input and its submission to Tallahassee.

Information Resources Management designed and implemented a system which submits Medicaid claims to Tallahassee electronically, shortening the billing cycle by weeks.

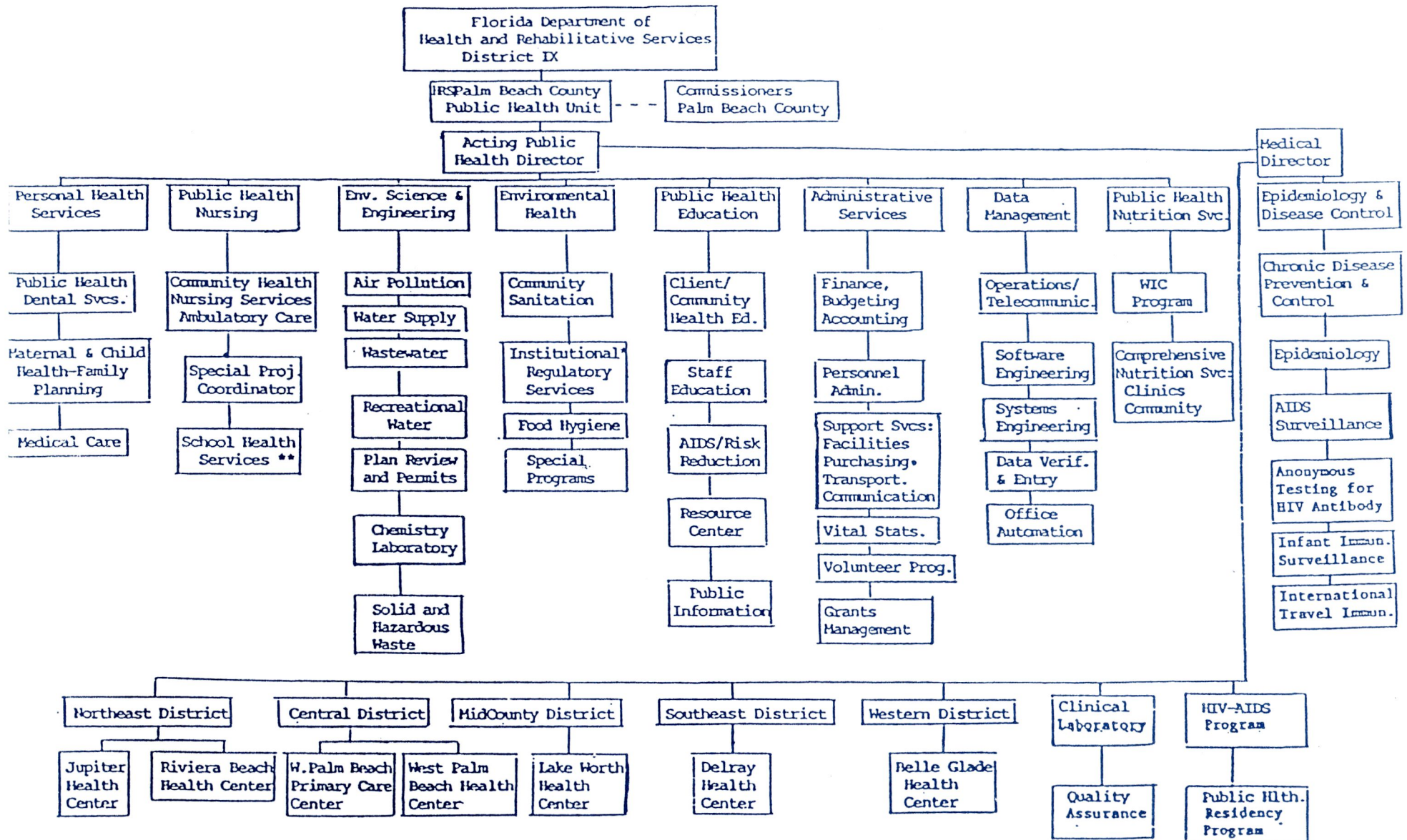
Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics section of Administration is computerized and birth certificates for the entire State of Florida can be issued. November 1989 through October 1990, Vital Statistics issued 24,839 birth certificates and 91,785 death certificates.

Total Resident Deaths by Certain Causes Palm Beach County Jan. - Sept. 1990

Heart Disease	2,812
Cancer	1,994
Stroke	469
Chronic Obstr. Resp. Disease	257
Pneumonia and Flu	148
HIV Disease	143
Motor Vehicle Accidents	137
Diabetes	125
Other Accidents	105
Suicide	99
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	83
Homocide	68
Aortic Aneurysm	57
Atherosclerosis	50
Tuberculosis	9

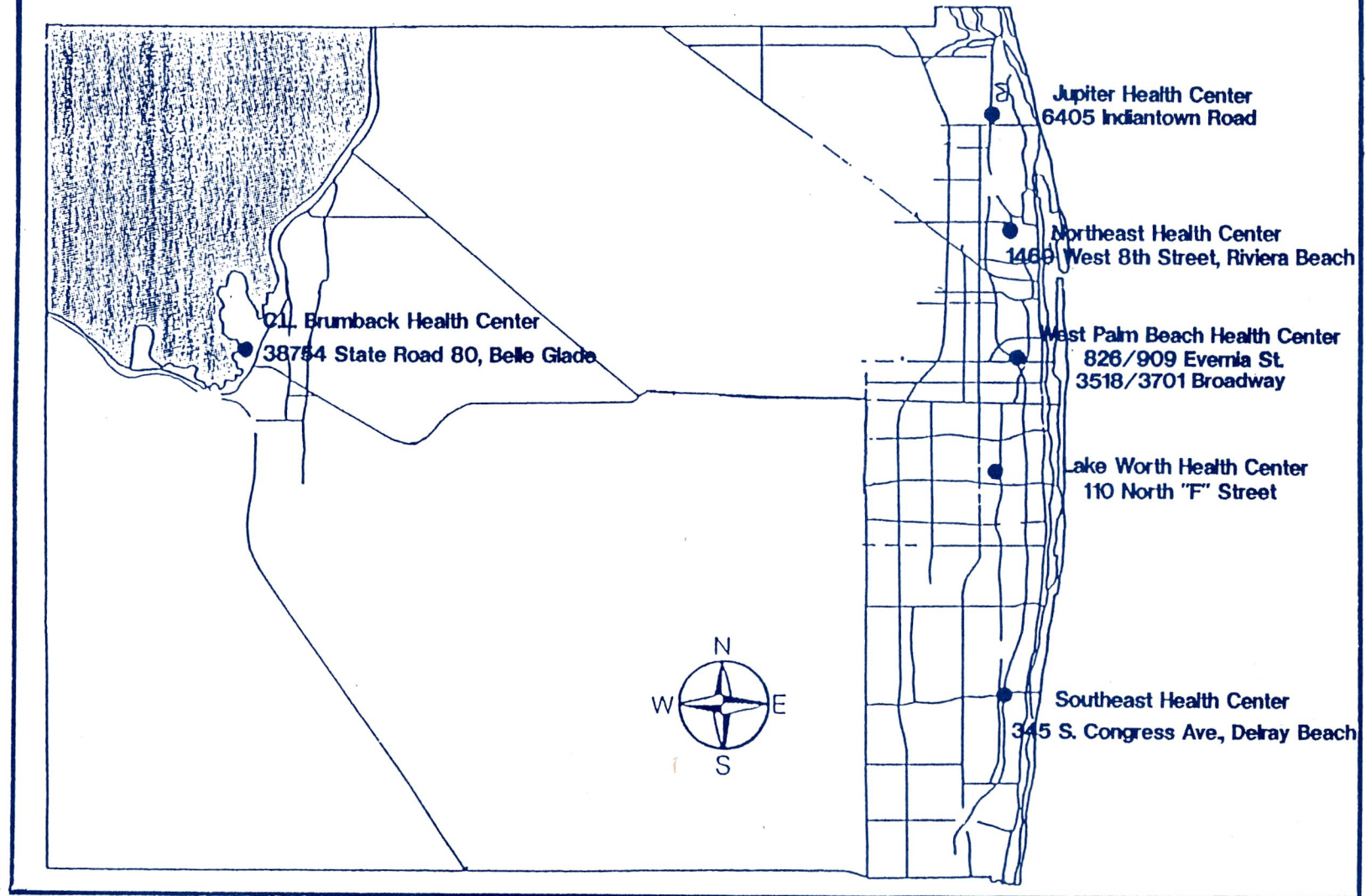
Source: Vital Statistics, HRS/PBCPHU



*Jointly Administered with Public Health Nursing

**Jointly Administered with Environmental Health & Dental Health

Public Health Centers



HRS/Palm Beach County Public Health Unit

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services is to improve the quality of life in Florida through the provision of health, rehabilitative, social, and preventive services on an integrated, decentralized basis.



Bob Martinez, Governor

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